

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## MAY 2025

Spring has sprung upon us, the grass is getting green, flowers are starting to grow, and that means that it is time for the lawns to be mowed. People are starting to get outside after being in the house during the winter months. Kids are thinking of getting out of school for the summer. The thought of youth baseball and softball this summer. This means that parents and grandparents are headed for a busy couple of months following their sons/daughter or grandkids around participating in all kinds of activities. Families want to get out for camping and getting away for the weekend. All of these activities are great for our families to share these activities together. With these busy schedules, something else has to give. Unfortunately, some people choose to take a break from church. I know that there are times that Church just does not fit into the schedule. Family vacations, family reunions, kids ball tournaments, or we get sick. But does that mean that we should forget about our father for the week? There are so many ways that we can stay in contact with our Lord and Savior. We can listen to the service, or listen to the Bible online. Listen to a Christian radio station. When my kids were young, we listened to Mr. Whitaker's Imagination Station, these were CDs that were Christian based stories for kids. We would listen to these for hours. It is so surprising how much you can learn listening to these types of programs.

In Our Daily Bread article of May 1<sup>st</sup>, it talks about listening for God's Voice. It seems that a gentleman was walking the busy and loud streets of New York when he heard a cricket. His friend said that it would be impossible that he could hear a cricket with all the other noises going on. They found the cricket later and the friend said that he was astonished that he heard the cricket. The man stated that "it's a matter of where you focus your attention."

"Elijah was a prophet of God who'd just seen Jesus perform an amazing display of His power, but now the prophet was hiding in a cave for fear of the pagan queen. (1 Kings 19: 1-9). This time, however, God didn't want to communicate in a powerful way". You see it was time now for Elijah to commune with God personally and quietly. God wanted to speak to the prophet in a "Gentle whisper".

In our lives today, we have a surplus of noises in our lives, yet God still speaks in a quiet voice through the Scriptures and by the Spirit. What noises are crowding in your life? How can you better listen for God's voice in your busy world? Taking time to prayerfully focus our attention on God will help us tune into His comforting, guiding voice.

Have a great start to your summer this May.

Dear Father, I thank you that I can listen for Your Spirit to speak to me quietly.

God bless,

Kirk Manchester



## MAY HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

**May 1** – 5 P.M. “Sweet Hour of Prayer” from the UCC Women’s Guild

**May 3** – 6:15 P.M. “Here I Am Lord” in memory of **Harlan & Barbara Buffum** from their family and friends

**May 4** – 5:15 P.M. “Lift High on the Cross” in memory of **Peter and Jane Pickel** from Rubie Kastner

**May 5** – 11:00 A.M. “On Eagles Wings” in memory of **Cheryl Wolterman** from Jodi Ehlers

**May 6** – 5:15 P.M. “On Eagles Wings” in memory of **Elmer Reimer** from the Reimer Family

**May 6** – 6:00 P.M. “Beautiful Savior” in memory of **Ruth Jess** from the Reimer Family

**May 11** – 5 P.M. “O, Jesus I Have Promised” in memory of **Lois Reimer** from Gary & Linda Reimer & family

**May 19** – 6:00 P.M. “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” in memory of **Emmogene Evers**, Johannes & Anna; William & Frieda; LaVaughn & Robert and Bud Peterson from Charles, Sandy & Bob & family.

**May 20** – 6:30 P.M. “Just As I Am” in memory of **Harvey Wellendorf & Ruth Wellendorf** from family

**May 26** – 6:00 P.M. – “Nearer My God to Thee” in memory of **Clarence Reincke** from his family

**May 26** – 11:15 A.M. “God Bless America” in honor of **Memorial Day**



May 3 - Tasha DeBode  
Shelby Neubauer

May 4 - Lorene Reimer

May 6 - Cory Wiebers

May 7 - Jared Curtis

Linda Reimer

May 8 - Kristy Clausen

Kayla Kastner

May 9 - Jeremy Paulsen

May 11 - Sophia Luth

May 12 - Naomi Friedrichsen

Cheri Streck

May 13 - William Lacey

May 14 - Jamie Ipsen

Delores Nemitz

Jolene Whiteing

May 21 - Ina Mae Bliesmann

Connie Boger

May 22 - MacKenzie Waldemar

May 23 - Candis Denker

May 24 - Roberta Jepsen

Robert Kastner

May 25 - Sydney Krohnke

May 27 - Reed Slater

May 28 - J.J. Steuk

May 30 - Gracie Outhouse

Todd Meehan

May 31 - David Sharp

HAPPY  
Mother's  
DAY

## March Numbers for the Books

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
March 2	63	\$ 893.00
March 9	35	\$ 279.00
March 16	55	\$ 1124.00
March 23	35	\$ 5249.50
March 30	87	\$ 682.03
Total:	275	\$ 8227.53
Average:	55	\$1645.51

## TEMPORARY AID PROGRAM

**During the month of May, we will be collecting items for TAP.**

For TAP to meet the needs of people in Crawford County, TAP depends on the regular contribution of basic food items. At this time they are in particular need of sugar, flour, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, canned tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato juice, macaroni, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, complete pancake mix and syrup, laundry soap, dish soap, and personal hygiene products. There are many family necessities that cannot be purchased with food stamps like paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers, personal care products, soap, shampoo, laundry soap, etc.

Cash donations may be sent directly to TAP at PO Box 121, Denison, IA 51442. Your generosity is ALWAYS appreciated!

Let's come together to help those in need in our community and neighboring communities! Place items in designated TAP boxes in the sanctuary during the month of May.

## STEWARDSHIP MAY 2025

What will our stewardship emphasis be for this month of May? It is our turn to support TAP collection for Denison. TAP (temporary aid program) is a program that supplies food for those in need. The suggested list of items has been in our weekly bulletin for a couple of weeks and it is a lot of kitchen and hygiene staples.

We all know our grocery bills have gotten higher and imagine what that has done to those who struggled to provide adequate diets for a family before. It must be nearly overwhelming. When you shop and find a special price for two like items, buy both and share with TAP. If baking supplies are on sale, it is an opportunity to buy flour or sugar for TAP.

Quick, filling meals like SpaghettiOs, mac and cheese, and similar are popular choices. Perhaps you could provide all the ingredients for a one dish meal – a voucher for a pound of ground beef, pasta, macaroni. There are a ton of ideas for healthy, nutritious shelf stable items. As you fill your shopping cart, add some things for those who struggle with adequate diets! We have the whole month of May to fill the box for TAP.





# Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Council President, John Fineran opened the meeting at 6:38 pm. Those in attendance were: John F., John D., Leisha, Seth, Josie, Roberta, Kirk, Candice (Office Secretary & Council Secretary) Absent: John B. and Jill.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Kirk opened with a prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting and 2 meetings via text and seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Financial Report:** A motion was made to approve the financial report and seconded. Motion carried.
5. **Bills to be Paid:** A motion was made to pay the bills and seconded. Motion carried.
6. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **CE:** Murlin Johannsen Estate donated 2 TVs for Sunday School room and Kiddie Care. Jessica will order a table and get chairs from the preschool. Youth Sunday is March 30. The girls did a great job playing bells on March 16. Jessica is taking youth to Winter Jam. May 4, they will have a bake sale. They signed up for a Lenten meal on April 2. They will order a gift for confirmation. A movie date will be scheduled.
  - b. **CSFD:** Buying gas gift cards to have on hand in case of emergencies, gave donations to the day care for supplies, Schleswig Flower Committee, Immanuel Lutheran Preschool for their fundraising night, and Junior Golf tournament
  - c. **CSFI:** no report
  - d. **Property:** Received a quote for replacing the water line from the town waterline into the church. (see New Business)
  - e. **Spiritual Life:** Changed alter decorations for Lent; presented 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary books to new members; had signed up for a Lent meal, but passed due to cancelled service; serving Easter breakfast; finding date for Laity Sunday
  - f. **Missions & Outreach:** served a Lenten meal
  - g. **Stewardship:** no report
  - h. **Endowment:** no report
  - i. **Pastor's Report:** Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly and giving communion to a shut in couple, met with 2 families for funerals, community club, and met twice with a couple for marriage counseling. Kirk He had a phone conversation with Church Conference of Ministry Association about becoming a licensed Lay Leader. Kirk said he needs a national background check (he will look at his background check and ask Kendi if it will work), a psychological evaluation, and submit a paper.

## 7. **Old Business:**

**Westside church:** Kirk said it is done and to take it off of the old business.

**Kirk's Contract:** The contract should be signed by the May meeting. It was suggested a subcommittee writes the contract based off of notes from each council member and they will review it with Kirk. The notes need to be turned in by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The sub committee consists of Roberta, Seth, and Josie.

**Locking keypad for a door:** It was discussed to maybe install a keypad doorknob. Tabled.

**Approval for wedding:** Kirk stated the Church Conference of Ministry Association said he can perform a wedding. He said that anyone can do weddings; its not a big deal.

**Council Meal:** Council will not be preparing soup like planned for Ash Wednesday. Council will be serving hotdogs, sandwiches, chips, salads, and desserts on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Council will meet at 5:15 to assemble sandwiches.

**Cross with sins:** The idea was very well received.

**Ash Wednesday thoughts:** Due to weather, it was rescheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. Many people commented the consistency of the ashes was a huge improvement from previous years.

## **8. New Business:**

**John Wulf money ideas:** Roberta reported that the project at the library has been put on hold, so that will be kept in mind down the road. A motion was made to give \$5,000 to the Morgan Cemetery and was seconded. Motion carried. Kirk is going to talk to Missions to see if they are willing to put on the Community Picnic again and use John Wulf money to fund it.

**Grants:** Under the Son Childcare submitted a grant for shades for the playgrounds to meet state requirements. There was a motion to give \$15,000 to the Childcare and it was seconded. Motion carried.

**Maundy Thursday:** No meal. Service at 7pm. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**Easter Service:** Service will be at 8 am with a brunch following. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**Church Main Water Line:** The Property Committee proposed while the service drive concrete is torn up for the parking lot, the aging galvanized waterline from the town watermain into the church be removed and replaced with 1 ¼" blue pex line. Hopes are that it will clear up the discolored water throughout the church. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**Appoint Mark Sharp to the Property Committee:** A motion was made and seconded to appoint Mark to the property committee. Motion carried.

**Check with renters about fertilizer:** Tabled until next meeting when council can look at the contracts.

**Hand shake during church:** Some people don't feel comfortable shaking/touching hands during cold/flu season. Kirk will mention shaking hands is optional. It can be added to bulletins as well.

**Date for next meeting:** April 16th at 6:30pm

With no further discussion, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candice Bral

Office and Council Secretary

### **Council Meeting via text- March 24, 2025**

The Bomgaars bill was received after the council meeting. The amount was different from what was listed on the Bills to be Paid because a receipt of \$6.41 wasn't turned in on time and Bomgaars charged a \$3 mailing fee. Tammy got signed up for email billing. A motion to approve paying the current amount of \$105.59 was made and seconded. Motion carried.

## MAY GREETERS

May 4- Verdell & Marilyn Kastner  
May 11- LaWayne & Pam Gronau  
May 18- Dennis & Lorene Reimer  
May 25- Steve & Roberta Jepsen

## MAY ACOLYTES

May 4- Haxton Fineran  
& Brayton Johannsen  
May 11- Sophia Luth  
& Averi Valentine  
May 18- Ryder Luth & Huntur Johannsen  
May 25- Jayton Bral & Cale Paulsen



**Haxton Fineran**  
**Lay Leader- Kirk Manchester**  
**Confirmation 2025**

## March Financials



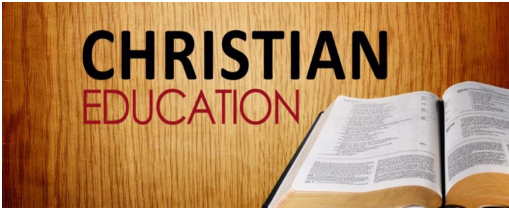
### Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$	7885.00
Loose Offering	\$	327.28
Seasonal Offering	\$	160.25
Misc. Offerings	\$	157.00
Misc. Income	\$	27.20
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$	6.14
Investment Income	\$	0.00
Total Income:	\$	8562.87

### Expenses:

Insurance & Taxes	\$	3052.18
Janitor Supplies	\$	327.09
Misc. Expenses	\$	0.00
Music	\$	240.00
Office Expense	\$	1926.37
Pastor Expenses	\$	5436.26
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	368.81
Supplies	\$	475.74
Support Staff Salaries	\$	4016.50
Utilities	\$	1943.99
Total expense:	\$	17786.94

Net Ordinary Income \$ (-9224.07)



Hallelujah! What a great month. The Sunday School class has had a lot of fun learning about the 40 days of Lent. We learned how the ashes were made, washed feet, had a Last Supper, did a food experiment, and made our own palm branches. A special congratulations to our confirmand, Haxton!

The Youth Fellowship and Sunday School kids are having a bake sale on May 11th, the youth are invited to help with baking treats on May 10th at 5:30 with a light meal. Our last day of Sunday School and Light Lounge will be May 18th. Remember to add August 3rd-6th for Vacation Bible School to your calendars. Volunteer sign up sheet will be out soon.



# MOVING VETERANS FORWARD

Schleswig VFW Auxiliary's latest project is to help Moving Veterans Forward. Donation boxes have been placed in United Bank of Iowa, Bank Iowa, KCK's and Dollar General. Some items needed are: new socks, new t-shirts, razors, shampoo, hygiene products, toilet paper, Swiffers, detergent, Comet, toilet bowl cleaners, trash cans, mops, brooms, dust pans, pizza pans, pizza cutters, pots & pans, crockpots, toasters, 7 inch electric skillets, mixers, etc- just about anything-but no furniture. Gently used items will be accepted. The Schleswig VFW Auxiliary appreciates anything you can help with. **All donations will be collected by May 31st.**

Thank you to the Missions committee for hosting the Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter Service.



Spiritual Life would like to thank everyone for the food donations for the Easter Brunch and for all the help cleaning up afterwards.



On May 11th during the worship service, the congregation will vote on whether to have Summer Worship at 9 am or 10 am. If you are unable to make it to church that day, you may pick up an absentee ballot from the office starting May 5. All absentee ballots must be turned into the office by May 9th before noon to be counted.



Church Youth will be baking goods on Saturday, May 10th at 5:30 pm with a light meal following.

They will host a Bake Sale following worship on Sunday, May 11th.